THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Based on the requests received from various quarters, the Government has revised excise duty on petrol several times. The details of changes in excise duty on petrol since April, 2002 are given in the Statement.

Statement

Excise duty on petrol since 1st April, 2002

Product	As on 1/4/02	As on 4/6/02	As on 1/3/03	As on 16/6/04	As on 9/7/04	As on 19/08/04	As on 1/3/05	As on 1/3/06	As on 1/3/07
Petrol -									
Advalorem Specific	32.00%, Rs. 7/ Ltr.	30.00% Rs. 7/ Ltr.	30.00% Rs. 7.50/ Ltr.	26.00% Rs. 7.50/ Ltr.	26.00% Rs 7.50/ Ltr.	23.00% Rs 7.50/ Ltr.	8.00% Rs. 13/ Ltr.	8.00% Rs. 13/ Ltr.	6.00%, Rs. 13/ Ltr.

Alternate arrangement for Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

1016. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the US Energy Secretary has opposed the Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline in view of the recent sanction imposed on Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are planning any alternate arrangement for this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how much expenditure has been incurred so far on the Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government is pursuing import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project.

(e) GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL) & Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), the PSUs involved with the project, have spent approximately Rs.3.50 crores on the technical & financial consultants appointed for the project.

Auction of oil and gas blocks in 7th round of NELP

1017. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has delayed the auction of oil and gas blocks under the seventh round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;